

**N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: MICHAEL D. WEST *et al.*

APPLICATION NO.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

FILED: CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH

FOR: THERAPY AND DIAGNOSIS OF CONDITIONS RELATED TO  
TELOMERE LENGTH AND/OR TELOMERASE ACTIVITY

EXAMINER: NOT YET ASSIGNED

ART UNIT: NOT YET ASSIGNED

**Preliminary Amendment**

Mail Stop Continuation Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

**In the specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph (page 1, lines 5-13) with the following:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/463,404 filed June 5, 1995, which is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 08/060,952 filed May 13, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/038,766 filed March 24, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 07/882,438 filed May 13, 1992, now abandoned. All of the above applications are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-27 and replace them with claims 1-24 below: